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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 60/253 and 61/226, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies, with the support of other parts of the United Nations system providing democracy assistance or advice.

The report discusses, in particular, the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Doha in 2006, and the follow-up to that Conference. It also describes the assistance of the United Nations system in promoting democracy and governance in recent years. The Secretary-General indicated in his previous report on this subject (A/60/556) that he intends to initiate a study on the comparative advantages, complementarity and desirable distribution of labour of various intergovernmental democracy movements, organizations and institutes, whether global or regional, and on how the United Nations system has worked and could further work with them in a mutually supportive way. The main results of the study are contained in the present report.

At the end of the report, the Secretary-General proposes concrete recommendations to the General Assembly on how to improve cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other relevant movements and organizations concerned with the promotion of democracy.

* A/62/150.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and its follow-up	4–11	3
III.	Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar and Doha Declarations	12–13	5
IV.	Assistance provided by the United Nations system to new or restored democracies	14–53	5
	A. Supporting and reforming the State and its institutions	15–38	5
	B. Decentralization and local governance in the democratization process	39–40	9
	C. Support for media	41–43	9
	D. Democracy and terrorism	44–45	10
	E. Democracy and gender	46–49	10
	F. Building democratic leadership and management skills	50–51	11
	G. Support for democratic processes through good offices	52–53	11
V.	Improving the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its international partners in the promotion of democracy	54–78	12
VI.	Observations and recommendations	79–91	17
Annex			
	Selected examples of country and regional assistance of the United Nations system to new or restored democracies		21

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/253, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and good governance. By the same resolution, it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request. In its most recent resolution, resolution 61/226, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to include in the report a summary of the results of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies.

2. In the report on new and restored democracies to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (A/54/492), the Secretary-General recommended that the inventory of assistance given by the United Nations system to Governments to strengthen new or restored democracies should be conducted every third or fourth year, or in years preceding the holding of future conferences of new or restored democracies. The Assembly endorsed that recommendation in its resolution 54/36. The present report is also submitted in compliance with that request.

3. The present report starts with a description of the results of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which took place in Doha from 29 October to 1 November 2006. It then provides an account of the implementation process of the Ulaanbaatar and Doha Declarations adopted at the Fifth and Sixth International Conferences and a description of the activities carried out by the United Nations system in assisting democracy and governance since 2003 (see also the annex). Lastly, it discusses the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its international partners in the promotion of democracy and makes recommendations for further action.

II. Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and its follow-up

4. The Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies was held in Doha from 29 October to 1 November 2006, with participants from 145 countries, 69 Parliaments, and 140 civil society organizations. The Conference registered a high proportion of high-ranking officials among State delegations, with more than 90 participants of the Governmental Meeting being at the level of Minister, Deputy Minister, Member of Parliament or Ambassador (29 Ministers, 13 Deputy Ministers and 50 Ambassadors). The Conference unanimously endorsed the Doha Declaration and Plan of Action and emphasized the importance of creating credible follow-up mechanisms for effectively implementing its decisions. The wide range and high-level of participation at the Conference demonstrated that there is increasing global support to discuss and promote democratization at the regional and national levels.

5. The Doha Conference also fully developed the tripartite structure which was first used at the Fifth International Conference, held in Ulaanbaatar in 2003. It comprised the Governmental Meeting, including three roundtable sessions, as well as the Parliamentary and Civil Society Forums. The tripartite meetings took place in parallel for two days and met in a joint working session on the final day. Another innovation was the adoption for the first time of a joint statement of all three

components of the Conference reaffirming their common commitment to the process of further democratization and the importance of promoting democracy as a shared responsibility (see A/61/581).

6. The Parliamentary Forum brought together 185 parliamentarians from 69 countries to exchange their views, experiences and practices. It was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union. At the end, it adopted its own Declaration and Plan of Action. The Declaration affirmed the position of parliament at the centre of democracy and as an indispensable actor in promoting freedom, participation, human rights and the rule of law (see A/61/817, annex I).

7. The Conference's third component, the Civil Society Forum, gathered 160 participants from 90 countries. The Forum met in plenary sessions as well as in six thematic panels and five regional groups under the overarching theme "Democracy is the road to peace". It also adopted a Declaration and Plan of Action (see A/61/817, annex II).

Follow-up mechanism

8. The Conference agreed upon the following implementation mechanisms: (a) an Advisory Board to assist the Chairman of the Conference; (b) an annual high-level meeting of the Conference that will be convened at the same time as the General Assembly; and (c) a nucleus secretariat to assist the Chairman. In addition, the Parliamentary and the Civil Society Forums agreed to establish a Democracy Advisory Commission and an International Steering Committee, respectively.

9. An important innovation of the Sixth Conference was the establishment of an Advisory Board aimed to assist the Chairman of the New or Restored Democracies Movement to implement the decisions of the Conference. The Board consists of eight members: five representatives from each regional group (at the moment Egypt, Mongolia, Romania, Uruguay and Iceland); one participant from the Parliamentary Forum; one participant from the Civil Society Forum; and one representative from the United Nations.

10. The first Advisory Board meeting, which was convened in Doha on 26 April 2007, agreed on the following plans for 2007-2009:

(a) Convene a High-level Meeting of the New or Restored Democracies Movement in New York during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;

(b) Declare an international day of democracy by the General Assembly. The first such day could be in 2008, with a possible commemorative meeting marking the twentieth anniversary of the First International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Manila in June 1988;

(c) Create a democracy databank and a regular newsletter that would share relevant information and experiences related to the democracy process; the Conference logo would also be created;

(d) Qatar, as the current Chairman of the International Conference on New or Restored Democracies, will continue discussions with the Chairman of the Community of Democracies (Mali) to bring the two movements closer together;

(e) Hold an expert group meeting on coordination and information in the field of democracy.

11. Further activities planned for 2008-2009 include an expert group meeting on the development of national plans on democracy.

III. Implementation of the Ulaanbaatar and Doha Declarations

12. In its resolution 60/253, the General Assembly invited Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up to the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, which took place in Ulaanbaatar in September 2003 and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, including through those steps set out in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action (A/58/387, annexes I and II), and to inform the Secretary-General of the actions taken.

13. In light of the foregoing resolution, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 26 March 2007 with regard to the implementation of the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action and of the Doha Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Sixth Conference. The replies received are presented in a report of the Secretary-General on this item (A/62/302). Furthermore, the Department of Political Affairs sent a letter on 11 April 2007 to the United Nations system, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Civil Society Forum of the Sixth Conference asking for their contributions to the present report. The responses received are the basis of the discussion in the sections that follow.

IV. Assistance provided by the United Nations system to new or restored democracies

14. United Nations assistance to new and restored democracies is wide in scope and multifaceted. This section provides examples of how various departments, funds and programmes work in the fields of governance and democracy promotion. Concrete examples of the assistance delivered in Member States are given in the annex.

A. Supporting and reforming the State and its institutions

15. One essential element of United Nations assistance to new and restored democracies is to help build and reform State institutions and improve the transparency and accountability of the Government.

Electoral assistance

16. The United Nations is engaged in a wide range of technical assistance activities to support Member States in holding credible elections. The United

Nations Focal Point for Electoral Assistance Activities, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, is mandated to ensure consistency in the handling of requests from Member States and coordination within the United Nations system. The Focal Point has played a central role in the consolidation and coordination of electoral assistance capacities within the United Nations system, supported in this by the Electoral Assistance Division in the Department of Political Affairs.

17. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/137, the Electoral Assistance Division maintains a roster of electoral experts available to staff the Organization's electoral assistance activities in the field. Since 2005, over 600 experts in such matters as voter registration, boundary delimitation, electoral legislation and administration, and voter education have been deployed from the roster to assist in providing electoral advice to Member States. The Electoral Assistance Division also assists in the promotion and dissemination of electoral best practices to help increase the quality of elections throughout the world.

18. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides a large number of electoral assistance programmes. A key initiative of UNDP is to identify and promote effective interventions strengthening voting participation by the poorest social sectors, as well as women, youth and indigenous peoples. Electoral turnout is only one form of participation, but it is also the most universal and basic. The question of the extent of participation is of concern for many countries, as it is closely related to public confidence in elections and government legitimacy.

19. In post-conflict situations, elections are organized as key elements of peace agreements: peacekeeping missions deployed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations often include electoral components established in close coordination with the Electoral Assistance Division, which also provides ongoing guidance to the work of such components. In addition to these electoral components, the Department engages in activities aimed at developing political space at the local level and stimulating participation in elections, including through civic education activities and holding political forums where candidates present and discuss their views with the population.

20. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has produced the guidance tools on human rights aspects of elections at the country level. It also supports the electoral process through civic education and cooperation with the media, monitoring polling stations and ensuring that vulnerable people are able to vote, and preventing the recurrence of the cases of intimidation and other human rights violations.

Enhancing efficient public administration and the rule of law

21. Recognizing the key role of efficient and responsive public administration, the United Nations provides technical advice on the performance of State institutions and parliaments aiming at greater public involvement in the decision-making process and fostering judicial and administrative reforms.

22. UNDP is one of the largest providers of technical assistance on governance. Its work at the global, regional, national and local levels plays an important role by strengthening opportunities for people to participate in decisions that affect their lives, by improving government capacity to deliver public services and by grounding democratic governance processes within international principles.

23. In post-conflict situations the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contributes to the process of democratization and good governance in the field of asylum legislation, the search for solutions for minorities displaced by conflict, the reduction and prevention of statelessness and the protection of internally displaced persons.

24. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Political Affairs-led missions are frequently mandated to assist in the reform and restructuring of police services. Police components provide capacity-building expertise to national police, assist with the development of national plans for security sector reform, provide technical advice on the restructuring of internal security services, train and evaluate national police officers and assist with the restoration and maintenance of the rule of law.

Human rights protection and promotion

25. The United Nations is actively involved in ensuring that human rights protection mechanisms are in place and strengthened to provide optimal services. The Organization's support also comes in the form of legal assistance, education and promotion of gender-related issues.

26. Governments and parliaments of countries in transition towards democratization continue to seek the legal expertise of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in their efforts to strengthen the national human rights protection mechanisms and guarantees. The Office is actively involved in the elaboration and/or revision of national constitutions and legislation for the purpose of harmonizing them with international human rights standards and procedures. In order to encourage further ratification of international human rights instruments, the Office also organizes training workshops in the regions.

27. The development of human rights indicators is an illustrative example of the Office's work to facilitate the implementation of human rights norms. The work is focused on the translation of universal human rights standards into operational and contextually relevant indicators that can promote the monitoring of the implementation of these rights at the country level.

28. The United Nations also helps new and restored democracies assess their laws and legal systems to determine whether they are in conformity with internationally recognized human rights standards of equality, non-discrimination and the participation of all people. The United Nations Democracy Fund, for instance, supports initiatives to strengthen the role of parliaments in implementing United Nations human rights treaties.

29. An overarching strategy of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is to support countries and regional bodies in crafting policy in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the other human rights obligations of Member States. It therefore seeks to aid, consult with and support developing democracies in the enactment of gender-sensitive legislation and policies. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs also provides technical assistance to new or restored democracies to support the implementation of the Convention.

30. In Iraq, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has been working with Iraqi ministries, judicial institutions and civil society to promote the

establishment of a strong human rights protection system, including a national human rights commission. UNAMI also issues a quarterly report on the human rights situation in the country.

Peacekeeping, peacebuilding and transparency of armed forces

31. United Nations peacekeeping and peace operations are contributing to stability and democratization in an increasing number of countries. Facilitating national reconciliation and building institutions in countries emerging from conflict have also been a priority for the United Nations.

32. The Police Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is supporting the police components of peacekeeping operations in all aspects of their work. The Department of Political Affairs peacebuilding support offices provide technical assistance and training for police and other public servants. The Department of Public Information also assists newly democratic Governments through the support it provides to the information components of peace operations, through the promotion of peacebuilding and through its work with media in post-conflict countries.

33. In transitional democracies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights endeavours to establish and strengthen the basic infrastructure for building democratic societies, with a focus on facilitating national reconciliation and peacebuilding processes in the countries emerging from conflicts through, inter alia, the establishment of truth and reconciliation commissions. The United Nations Office at Geneva, together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, have discussed peacebuilding in their annual tripartite meetings, emphasized its fundamentally political character and highlighted the fact that an effective peacebuilding strategy must address the country-specific root causes of conflict.

34. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in partnership with the African Union, is implementing the African Security Sector Reform Programme, which has resulted in the adoption of a draft code of conduct for African armed and security forces. At the global and regional levels, in order to promote transparency on armaments, the Office for Disarmament Affairs maintains and promotes the use of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, a public record that collects information about production, holdings and transfers of the seven categories of major conventional weapons systems. The Office for Disarmament Affairs also maintains the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures.

Improving accountability, transparency and quality of governance

35. Enhancing accountability and responsive institutions is a critical element of UNDP efforts in democratic governance for human development, focused on: (a) strengthening legislatures, regional elected bodies and local assemblies; (b) supporting public administration reforms in national Governments and local authorities; and (c) promoting access to justice and the rule of law. Priority is given to strengthening the mechanisms of responsiveness and public accountability and the concerns and interests of poor people, women and other marginalized groups. Weaknesses in accountability systems involve a lack of interaction among

institutions and sectors. One main initiative therefore will focus on multisectoral accountability mechanisms.

36. In March 2007, the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group endorsed a new governance and anti-corruption strategy which calls for taking a comprehensive approach at the country, operational and global levels. The World Bank has also supported the establishment of freedom of information regimes. With the Bank's support, a growing number of countries have adopted a freedom of information law and improved transparency in Government.

37. The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the first global legally binding instrument against corruption that requires States to establish criminal and other offences to cover a wide range of acts of corruption to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption, to facilitate international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of and fight against corruption and to promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.

38. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provides technical assistance and legal advisory activities to Member States in support of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, it has also finalized and published legislative and technical guides to promote its implementation.

B. Decentralization and local governance in the democratization process

39. One of the important trends on which the United Nations focuses in the area of democratization is the support provided to new Governments in decentralization and local governance. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research has a Decentralized Cooperation Programme that trains newly elected mayors, local council leaders and technical staff in the fields of local governance, leadership and management skills. It also provides training to local government representatives in the fields of strengthening local governance and service delivery. The World Bank on its part helps countries decentralize fiscal and administrative responsibilities. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has a number of initiatives for strengthening local governments and the capabilities of local communities.

40. UNDP engages directly with key stakeholders to strengthen civic engagement at the local, regional and national levels. Mechanisms and opportunities for this engagement include electoral laws, institutions, processes, mobilization and communications channels. UNDP democratic governance initiatives are designed to help the participation of all — with particular emphasis on marginalized sectors of society — in public policy dialogues and decision-making.

C. Support for media

41. Free media promotion in new and restored democracies has been an important area of the United Nations system's assistance. It helps train media personnel, emphasizing independence, ethics and media responsibilities in democratic societies, including support for women.

42. The Department of Public Information has been actively promoting issues of democratic governance through the United Nations News Centre portal. The news stories are distributed through the associated news service to over 48,000 subscribers worldwide. In addition, the *Yearbook of the United Nations* has regular coverage of the activities of the Organization related to new and restored democracies. The Department also promotes free media through the Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists Fellowship Programme, which includes young journalists from new or restored democracies.

43. As peace operations bring or support democratic practices in post-conflict countries, the public information components are vital to informing host populations of the various elements of the peace process, including elections and the formation of democratic institutions. The Department of Public Information mission radio stations serve as models of neutral and democratic reporting. These components also include training local media and provision of technical assistance to media and communication offices of newly democratic States.

D. Democracy and terrorism

44. The United Nations has intensified its efforts to provide technical assistance in preventing and combating terrorism. An increasingly important part of the United Nations assistance has been focused on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism, which undermines the progress in building a democratic society in new or restored democracies. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has encouraged the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance its provision of technical assistance to Member States through increased focus on developing the capacity of criminal justice systems to implement the provisions of the universal legal instruments against terrorism.

45. The Office for Disarmament Affairs promotes the universalization of a series of international and regional instruments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, all of which have a direct bearing on many aspects of the terrorist threat. It encourages States to implement their obligations under these instruments and assists them in capacity-building across a broad range of issues.

E. Democracy and gender

46. UNIFEM has undertaken extensive programming to encourage community-led approaches to women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and is cultivating strategies with local governments, law enforcement agencies and communities to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual violence during and after conflicts and crises. It strives to create enabling environments for women's effective participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery by engaging national, regional and community decision makers, local police and informal institutions.

47. In 2006, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women developed a practical, in-depth guide for the creation of effective policies and plans on women, peace and security issues. "Securing equality, engendering peace: a guide to policy and planning on women, peace and

security" looks at a crucial step on the path towards the full implementation of existing laws and the formulation and implementation of concrete action plans.

48. The Gender Unit within the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has established a gender funding facility aimed at increasing the capacity of women's groups and institutions involved in the protection of women in host countries of Department-led missions and at increasing women's participation in peace processes. The facility, through gender units in the missions, has supported more than 15 projects in 10 different missions in cooperation with national organizations.

49. UNDP and UNIFEM are the key collaborators in the project on women's participation in the political process, which aims to construct a useful and updated knowledge base on ongoing processes in gender, governance and women's participation through the compilation of research and studies and the exchange of experiences. The United Nations Democracy Fund is also actively engaged. Sixty-two per cent of the proposals submitted to the Fund have an important gender component and 37 per cent focus explicitly on the promotion of women's rights and gender equality.

F. Building democratic leadership and management skills

50. The development of new and restored democracies requires learning and building on the strengths and accomplishments of old and established democracies. An important focus for learning for both new and old democracies is in the leadership and management areas.

51. The United Nations Democracy Fund, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund are building leadership skills through training, workshops and fellowships. Encouraging the participation of youth in the political processes is an important aim of United Nations Democracy Fund projects. The World Bank also helps countries strengthen their public financial management by teaching management skills.

G. Support for democratic processes through good offices

52. The Secretary-General also promotes democracy through quiet diplomacy, the provision of "good offices", to try to defuse potential conflicts and to support democratic processes. The Secretary-General has provided good offices in a wide range of situations, offering an avenue for the resolution of inter-State wars and intra-State wars, border disputes, maritime disputes, constitutional disputes, electoral disputes, questions of autonomy and independence and a vast range of other disagreements and problems.

53. The content and objective of the good offices and of the mediation efforts are often associated with the establishment of good governance practices and the institutional framework for democratization in countries that ask for it. The 2005 World Summit recognized the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes (resolution 60/1, para. 76) and supported efforts to strengthen the United Nations capacity in this area. The General Assembly subsequently approved a start-up mediation support capacity in the

Department of Political Affairs (see resolution 60/246). To this end, a Mediation Support Unit was established to serve as a central repository for peacemaking experience and to act as a clearing house for lessons learned and best practices.

V. Improving the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its international partners in the promotion of democracy

54. In its resolution 58/13, the General Assembly already requested that the Secretary-General examine options for making the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and its follow-up more effective. In the Secretary-General's 2005 report to the General Assembly on new or restored democracies (A/60/556), he underlined the need to bring more coherence and direction to the United Nations system's support of the democratization processes. He indicated that he planned to ask relevant United Nations entities to study the comparative advantages, complementarity and desirable distribution of labour of various intergovernmental democracy movements, organizations and institutes, whether global or regional, and on how the United Nations system has worked and could further work with them in a mutually supportive way.

55. In response to these requests and commitments the following two sections will discuss the work of major intergovernmental movements and organizations working in the democracy field outside the United Nations and how joint cooperation with them could be further strengthened in the years ahead.

Intergovernmental democracy movements and organizations with a global reach

56. The two major global democracy movements, the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and the Community of Democracies have already established themselves within the international community. The two other major democracy-related organizations that work globally, namely the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), have also made major contributions to this field of increasing importance.

International conference of new or restored democracies

57. The International Conference of New or Restored Democracies began as an initiative of the Philippines in 1988 to support recently democratized countries through international cooperation. Conferences have been held in Manila in 1988; Managua in 1994; Bucharest in 1997; Cotonou, Benin, in 2000; Ulaanbaatar in 2003; and Doha in 2006. The United Nations became involved when the Secretary-General was asked by the Managua Conference and the General Assembly to explore the ways and mechanisms in which the United Nations system could support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies and to submit a comprehensive report on the subject to the Assembly at its fiftieth session (see resolution 49/30). Starting from the Cotonou Conference, all States Members of the United Nations are invited to the Conference.

58. In terms of the support of the United Nations system, the then Secretary-General Boutrous Boutrous-Ghali and his senior staff supervised the first inventory

of the United Nations system's assistance to new or restored democracies, which was the basis of his policy document, *An Agenda for Democratization*, published in 1996.[1] Subsequently, the Department of Political Affairs took over the coordination of the preparation of the inventory and policy reports to the General Assembly, dealt with the policy coordination issues, advised the Chairmen of the Conferences on policies and procedures and liaised with the organizers of the Parliamentary and the Civil Society Forums.

59. UNDP has supported the hosts of the Conferences by providing consultants or staff members to assist in the organization of the conferences, their various panels and studies submitted for discussion. Country or regional offices of UNDP have provided funds, staff and expertise to the hosts, issued publications of the Conference proceedings and provided funds for the participation of the least developed countries. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has provided some of the same services over the years.

Community of democracies

60. In 2000, organized by seven States (the United States of America, Poland, the Czech Republic, Chile, India, Mali and the Republic of Korea), the Community of Democracies held its inaugural meeting in Poland, bringing together over 100 countries that signed the Warsaw Declaration. After Warsaw, the Community of Democracies held conferences in Seoul in 2002 and Santiago in 2005. The next conference is scheduled to be held in Bamako from 15 to 17 November 2007. In 2004, the Governments of the Community of Democracies formed a Democracy Caucus in the United Nations.

61. The Convening Group, now consisting of 16 States, works on a consensual basis to reach decisions and admit new Governments into the Community. Admittance requires the applicant country to demonstrate a commitment to the democratic principles and practices outlined in the Warsaw Declaration. Countries that fulfil the requirements are invited to the conference as participants, while Governments that are deemed to be in transition and have not fulfilled the requirements may be invited as observers. The chairmanship of the Convening Group rotates, with the chairing country acting as host of the conference.

62. Regarding the United Nations support for the Community of Democracies, UNDP has provided assistance since the Warsaw conference. The support includes a trust fund to pay for the travel expenses of representatives of least developed countries, providing strategic advisers for the hosts to draft documents and plans of action and attending preparatory meetings. UNDP is currently supporting the current Chairman, Mali, through the UNDP office in Bamako, and the Democratic Governance Group in New York is providing an adviser to the Chairman working from the Washington office of UNDP.

International IDEA

63. International IDEA is an intergovernmental organization that focuses on democracy-building and has 25 member States in its Council representing all regions of the world. The organization contributes to the international community by providing access to its extensive knowledge base, consisting of specialized capacity-

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.1.3.

building tools and practitioners' networks in electoral processes, political parties, constitution-building, gender and democracy, a state of democracy assessment methodology based on the principle of local ownership and the practice of democratic dialogue.

64. International IDEA has established, among other things, the Electoral Knowledge Network (ACE) in cooperation with the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa, Elections Canada, the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico, the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP. It is a portal containing comprehensive information on elections. It also promotes networking among election-related professionals and offers capacity-development services. IDEA has also developed a professional development curriculum (BRIDGE) for electoral officials together with the International Foundation for Election Systems, the Australian Election Commission, the Department of Political Affairs and UNDP.

65. Through the recent opening of an office in New York as Permanent Observer for International IDEA to the United Nations, the organization plans to enhance its strategic outreach and programmatic relations with the United Nations and to liaise with Member States so as to increase both the policy relevance and impact of the work of IDEA on democracy-building. IDEA already has close cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Democracy Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

66. IDEA has been participating in meetings of the Community of Democracies and the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies. The Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies was particularly important for testing the International IDEA state of democracy assessment methodology in a host country, Mongolia. Based on the methodology, the Government of Mongolia took the challenge of self-assessing the quality of its democracy, with the support of UNDP and other donors, and reported to the following International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, in Doha in November 2006, on the results achieved, providing a model for other States Members of the United Nations to follow.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

67. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy in 1997. In line with the Declaration, there has been growing cooperation between the United Nations and IPU in an effort to bring a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and to support parliamentary institutions in emerging democracies and post-conflict countries in four key areas: strengthening representative institutions; promoting and defending human rights; promoting partnership between men and women in political life; and setting standards as well as sharing information on parliaments and democracy.

68. In 2005, IPU worked with UNDP in developing guidelines designed to enhance the capacity of parliaments in countries devastated by conflict. It has continued to provide technical and advisory assistance to parliaments throughout the world, in cooperation with UNDP, the European Commission and several donors. In recent years, IPU has developed a partnership with the Peacebuilding Commission in supporting parliaments in Burundi and Sierra Leone. It has also developed close cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of

Economic and Social Affairs in developing a strong parliamentary component of the main United Nations processes in the realm of global governance, including the recent Seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government. Another important joint initiative is the Global Centre for Information and Communication Technology in Parliament, launched by IPU and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in November 2005.

69. The Fifth and Sixth International Conferences of New or Restored Democracies followed a tripartite format and IPU organized a Parliamentary Forum on both occasions. In response to the plan of action adopted by the Parliamentary Forum of the Fifth Conference, it developed a guide for democratic parliaments under the title "Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century". IPU has the lead responsibility for implementing the plan in cooperation with the host, Qatar. In March 2007, IPU organized an expert meeting, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs and the host of the Sixth Conference, in the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm, on the past, present and future of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies.

Regional and other intergovernmental organizations

70. DPA sent a letter in April 2007 to those regional and intergovernmental organizations that have participated in the Secretary-General's periodic high-level meetings, asking for their contribution to the present report. As the replies received contain valuable information for the whole international community, the Secretary-General is proposing that all the replies received be stored in the databank that the Chairman of the Sixth International Conference on New or Restored Democracies, the Government of Qatar, is in the process of establishing. These replies and other consultations undertaken already show a number of important trends as to how the regional and other intergovernmental organizations stress democracy and governance promotion in their work.

71. Some regional and other intergovernmental organizations have democracy promotion or principles of democracy already explicitly mentioned in their founding documents. Examples are:

(a) Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, 1948;

(b) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1949;

(c) Statute of the Council of Europe, 1951;

(d) Treaty of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), 1976;

(e) Treaty on European Union, 1993;

(f) Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, CPLP) Declaração Constitutiva da CPLP, 1996;

(g) Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU), 2000;

(h) Treaty of the Southern African Development Community, 2002;

(i) Charte de la Francophonie, 2005.

72. Democracy promotion and principles have also been explicitly mentioned in declarations establishing organizations or their charters, such as:

(a) Declaration on the Establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, 2001;

(b) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Charter, 2005.

73. In addition, a number of regional and other intergovernmental organizations have recently adopted charters or declarations specifically related to democracy or governance promotion. Examples are:

(a) ECOWAS Declaration of Political Principles, 1991;

(b) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa, 1998;

(c) Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Bamako Declaration and Bamako Plan of Action on the Assessment of the Practices of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms, 2000;

(d) ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, 2001;

(e) OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter, 2001;

(f) AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, 2007.

74. Some organizations have also established special democracy promotion structures or organizational mechanisms, such as:

(a) Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, set up in 1992;

(b) OAS Department for the Promotion of Democracy, reorganized, in 2001;

(c) Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;

(d) The Commonwealth's Ministerial Action established in 1995 to recommend measures for collective Commonwealth action aimed at the speedy restoration of democracy and constitutional rule.

75. Some others have special democracy or governance programmes, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Pacific Islands Governance Initiative (2002-2008).

76. Others have special charters on human rights and civil society with close links to democracy promotion, such as:

(a) Council of Europe, Protocol No. 4 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1963;

(b) AU African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981;

(c) Organization of the Islamic Conference Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, 1990;

(d) Caribbean Community Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community, 1996;

(e) European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2000;

(f) Intergovernmental Authority on Development Khartoum Declaration, 2000;

(g) League of Arab States Arab Charter on Human Rights, 2004.

77. A number of inter-organizational meetings and conferences on democracy promotion have also been organized recently. In the high-level meetings which the Secretary-General convenes with heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations, democracy promotion has been included in the programme of work although not yet discussed extensively. In addition, AU and OAS, on the initiative of the Community of Democracies, held a conference, "Democracy Bridge: Multilateral Regional Efforts for the Promotion and Defense of Democracy in Africa and America", in Washington, D.C., from 10 to 12 July 2007. The Council of Europe has also established a Forum for the Future of Democracy, which had its latest meeting in Sigtuna, Sweden, from 13 to 15 June 2007.

78. All of the foregoing developments and examples show that democracy and governance promotion have become major areas of interest to regional and other intergovernmental organizations as well as to the United Nations system.

VI. Observations and recommendations

79. In his 2005 report on new or restored democracies (A/60/556), the Secretary-General noted that the next discussion by the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the item would provide a good opportunity to have a full exchange of views to decide on substantive and institutional measures needed to expand the assistance programmes of the United Nations system in that area. The Secretary-General called upon the General Assembly to come to a decision, taking into account all financial implications, on how to strengthen United Nations support to the Chairman of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and United Nations cooperation with relevant movements and organizations to make their increasingly important work in this area more effective and fully complementary in nature.

80. I support full discussion of the General Assembly on the role of the United Nations in democracy assistance and how our cooperation with movements and organizations described in the present report could be further strengthened. In this light, the following observations and recommendations are made.

United Nations support for the intergovernmental democracy movements and organizations with a global reach

81. An issue of special interest for the international community is the complementarity, distribution of labour and coordination between the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and the Community of Democracies as States Members of the United Nations attend both conferences, their special meetings and panels and contribute financially to their activities.

82. The Ulaanbaatar Conference of September 2003 already urged the Chairman of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies to initiate discussions with the Chairman of the Community of Democracies on ways of bringing the two movements closer together, in a complementary manner. The Doha Declaration of November 2006 encouraged consultation and increased cooperation to facilitate technical cooperation, including exchange of experiences about specific issues of common interest. On its part, the Community of Democracies also supported cooperation in the 2005 Santiago Ministerial Commitment, entitled "Cooperating for Democracy". In response, the Chairman of the Sixth International

Conference of New or Restored Democracies, the Government of Qatar, plans to initiate a consultative meeting with the Community of Democracies in 2009.

Recommendation 1
Avoiding duplication

83. The International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and the Community of Democracies should avoid duplication in the planning and execution of their future activities. Creating mechanisms for coordination and cooperation could be considered by both movements. The United Nations will be ready to provide assistance in this regard if requested by both movements.

Recommendation 2
Cooperation with International IDEA

84. Given that International IDEA and the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies have a long history of working together and furthering the same goals and values, future Conference hosts could consider using IDEA as a continuous resource that could be available for the movement on a long-term basis, in close cooperation with the United Nations. The IPU supporting role for organizing the Parliamentary Forums of the Ulaanbaatar and Doha Conferences is a model for how different global organizations and movements and the United Nations can work together. IDEA could also assist the Community of Democracies in their areas of mutual interest. The General Assembly could welcome the intention of International IDEA to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations.

Recommendation 3
Democracy database and website

85. With regard to the democracy database and website:

(a) Given that the Government of Qatar, the Chairman of the Sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, has committed to supporting and maintaining a new democracy databank, newsletter and Conference website, but only for the duration of its chairmanship, the United Nations departments, programmes and funds, as well as the General Assembly, should consider providing funds for future hosts to maintain such a databank and website on a continuous basis;

(b) The United Nations system could also provide technical assistance in the creation of the aforementioned databank and website and provide necessary data, including the transfer of original contributions received from the States Members of the United Nations, the United Nations system, regional organizations and other partners for the present report;

(c) To support the coordinating role of the Department of Political Affairs in providing assistance for the hosts of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, the Secretary-General will ask the Department to develop and maintain a website on democracy promotion, subject to necessary financing, in close cooperation with the United Nations system and other international partners mentioned in the present report.

United Nations cooperation with regional and other intergovernmental organizations in democracy promotion

86. Section V of the present report indicated that many regional and other intergovernmental organizations have recently adopted charters or declarations related to democracy promotion or created structures and programmes on democratic governance. Another interesting trend is inter-organizational cooperation in the area of democracy.

Recommendation 4
Sharing regional experiences in democracy promotion

87. As a number of regional, subregional and other intergovernmental organizations have recently adopted democracy-related charters or declarations, their experiences gained in initiating, adopting and implementing various international legal instruments related to democracy promotion could be shared with other such organizations and the United Nations. The joint meeting of AU and OAS to discuss democracy-related issues could be a model for other regional, subregional or intergovernmental organizations to consider. The United Nations is willing to facilitate this cooperation and the General Assembly could be informed of the results achieved.

Recommendation 5
Cooperation between regional organizations and global democracy movements

88. As many regional and other intergovernmental organizations have extensive programmes in democracy promotion and governance but have so far had only marginal or no participation in the meeting of the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and the Community of Democracies, wider participation in and contribution to the two movements should be considered by them in the future. The United Nations could make information available about future activities of the two movements to regional and other intergovernmental organizations. The democracy websites, databank and newsletter mentioned in recommendation 3 above would provide useful channels for distributing this information online.

Securing resources

89. The discussion in sections IV, V and VI of the present report has made clear that the work of the United Nations system and its partners in the democracy field has greatly expanded in recent years. The resources have mostly been based, however, on voluntary contributions. As democracy promotion is not an activity that any donor — usually coming from the North and developed countries — should dominate, the funding should be more broadly based and supported by the General Assembly.

Recommendation 6
Strengthening the democracy assistance of the United Nations

90. The General Assembly should appropriate sufficient funds in the United Nations regular budget to facilitate the implementation of the foregoing recommendations.

91. I hope that the foregoing recommendations can be fully discussed by the General Assembly during its sixty-second session. I will also bring them to the attention of the United Nations system, regional organizations and other partners mentioned in the present report. On my part, I assure the international community that promotion of democracy will be one of the priorities during my term as Secretary-General. I will intensify internal discussion within the United Nations on how we can bring more coherence and consistency in the assistance we deliver in this regard so as to maximize its effectiveness, and I will report periodically to the Assembly on the decisions I take.

Annex

Selected examples of country and regional assistance of the United Nations system to new or restored democracies

Electoral assistance

- *Electoral Assistance Division/Department of Political Affairs and Department of Peacekeeping Operations*. In conflict situations, the Electoral Assistance Division is involved in conceptualizing, staffing and supporting the electoral components of peacekeeping or special political missions. Such work is ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Nepal.
- *United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and United Nations Democracy Fund*. In Afghanistan, they support the joint civil and voter registry pilot project which will lay the ground for a nationwide programme in 2007-2008.
- *United Nations Development Fund for Women*. The involvement of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in voter registration in Liberia has helped to ensure the high levels of female voter engagement in national elections that brought Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to power. In the occupied Palestinian territory, it joined efforts with the Women's Affairs Centre in the Gaza Strip to advocate for the rights of female council members and to build their capacity.

Enhancing efficient public administration and the rule of law

- *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. In collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament, the Department implements the project of strengthening parliamentary information systems in Africa and supports judicial reforms in Togo, concentrating on strengthening capacities and modernizing the judicial system for better governance.
- *The World Bank*. In Albania, the Bank undertook wide-ranging administrative reforms, initially focused on introducing meritocracy and market-competitive pay for the country's top 1,300 civil servants. A project in Slovakia has financed the redesigning of the "judicial map", resulting in a redistribution of court jurisdiction and reduction of 10 courts.
- *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and United Nations Development Group*. In Iraq, in order to build the capacity of Iraqi ministries for better governance, training workshops have been developed, organized and implemented.
- *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Office for Project Services*. In Iraq, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has a three-phase constitutional support programme that is being implemented for the Constitutional Review Committee of the Iraqi Council of Representatives.
- In Timor-Leste and Kosovo, OHCHR has provided expert advisory opinions on a number of draft laws and procedures.

- *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*. In the Western Balkans, the Office has promoted and assisted in voluntary repatriation and return programmes to Croatia and to, and within, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the local integration of refugees in Serbia. It also engaged in systematic training activities on asylum.

- *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*. The Department has been providing advice and assistance in developing judicial reform strategy in Afghanistan and Iraq. On occasion, it has been requested to assist national authorities in the selection of judges and prosecutors. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) developed the Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Council to participate in the process of vetting and selecting judges and prosecutors and the development of a judicial inspection capacity.

Human rights protection and promotion

- *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Development Programme*. In Burundi and Sierra Leone, OHCHR has conducted several activities to assist the Parliaments. In 2005, the OHCHR regional office for the Middle East initiated the process leading to a national plan of action for human rights in Lebanon, supported by the UNDP project on strengthening the capacity of the Lebanese Parliament.

- In Tajikistan, a significant achievement of OHCHR in 2006 was the inclusion of human rights, in the curriculum for secondary schools and the development of learning manuals. Among the numerous OHCHR field presences, the Yaoundé Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa plays a particularly active part in supporting democratization processes in the 11 countries of the region.

- *United Nations Development Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund*. The two Funds have supported inclusion of gender equality provisions in the development of new Constitutions in Bolivia, Iraq, Montenegro and Thailand, and in the interim constitutions of Nepal and the Sudan. They also support removal of discriminatory provisions from existing legislation and policies in Burundi, Ecuador, Liberia and Nepal and have provided technical and financial support to numerous new or restored democracies to formulate or implement laws and policies that strengthen women's rights and gender equality. Moreover, they provided technical support and/or advocacy for rape laws and policies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, and domestic violence policies in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Kazakhstan, Sierra Leone, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

- In Morocco, UNIFEM is partnering with the Consultative Council on Human Rights to strengthen the democratic transition currently under way.

- *United Nations Democracy Fund*. In partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, it funds a regional project in Africa focused on improving compliance with the human rights treaty body system.

- *Department of Political Affairs and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq*. In partnership with Iraqi ministries, entities of the civil society and

concerned United Nations agencies, UNAMI has conducted several workshops and projects on promoting human rights, as well as on reforming the judicial system and strengthening the rule of law in Iraq.

Peacekeeping, peacebuilding and transparency of armed forces

- *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*. The police component of UNMIK supports building the capacity and integrity of the Kosovo Police Service.
- The Police Component of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) supports building the capacity and integrity of the Congolese National Police and related law enforcement agencies.
- *United Nations Development Fund for Women*. Its programmes involve women in peacebuilding, institutional reform and security activities in Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Liberia, Timor-Leste and Kosovo. Community-led peace and security programming is also under way in Haiti, Rwanda and Uganda.
- *Department for Disarmament Affairs/Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa*. In February 2007, the Regional Centre launched the African Security Sector Reform Programme's first pilot project entitled "Promotion of Civil-Military Relations in Togo".
- *United Nations Office at Geneva*. In collaboration with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Office organizes seminars on various aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding and security sector reform.
- *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. With the University of Ghana, the Department has continued to collaborate on training programmes in a range of conflict-prevention and peacebuilding areas.
- *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*. The Commission engaged in the "National Reconciliation and Reduction of Ethno-Sectarian Tensions in Iraq through Education" programme. This project aims to reduce tensions by targeting youth.

Improving accountability, transparency and quality of governance

- *Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Together with the Controller General of Brazil, they participate in anti-corruption technique programmes in order to prevent and eliminate corruption in the federal Government of Brazil.
- *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. In 2007, the Department hosted the seventh Global Forum on Reinventing Government on the theme of "Building Trust in Government" at the United Nations Office at Vienna.
- *Department of Peacekeeping Operations and United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti*. The two have provided technical assistance and support to the Ministry of Justice in Haiti in the area of legislative drafting and development. This assistance facilitated the establishment of a High Council of

the Magistrature, the re-establishment of the Magistrates School and legislation governing the judiciary.

- UNMIK has both drafted, and assisted national counterparts to develop, a full range of legislation in virtually all areas.
- The United Nations Democracy Fund supports a project by Transparency Brazil that monitors the Brazilian legislative houses and representatives. The project was the Internet electoral phenomenon of the Brazilian 2006 general elections. In the two months of its existence, there were more than 7.5 million visits to the candidates' pages.
- The United Nations Democracy Fund, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, supports a project to promote the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Liberia, Mauritania and Togo.
- *United Nations Development Fund for Women*. In Argentina, the Fund is partnering with the Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad for a project that seeks to organize and mobilize women in order to promote transparency and efforts for ensuring the right of access to information. The programme will employ strategies that combine a traditional political approach with attention to harnessing civil society's organizational and advocacy potential.
- The World Bank has supported the establishment of institutional arrangements in the Sudan to ensure that fiduciary concerns are adequately addressed while longer term capacity is built.

Decentralization and local governance

- *The World Bank*. In Sierra Leone, the World Bank established an intergovernmental transfer system, including block grants to finance local government development projects conducted within the framework of Sierra Leone's Institutional Reform and Capacity-Building Project.
- *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*. The Commission's Employment Creation and Income Generation project, administered through the Development of Micro and Small Agro-Industries in South Lebanon, seeks to build the capacities of local communities by enhancing the skills of men and women in South Lebanon in the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors. Another initiative is the Multipurpose Technology Community Centres in Support of Employment Creation, which are to be established in three selected impoverished localities in the Basra region of Iraq.
- *United Nations Institute for Training and Research*. In Palestine, through a joint project with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Institute trains newly elected mayors, local council leaders, technical staff and the Ministry of Local Government in the fields of local governance, leadership and management skills. In Iraq, through a joint project with UNDP, it is providing training to representatives of the Ministry of Local Government, Provinces and Municipalities in the fields of strengthening local governance and service delivery.

- *United Nations Democracy Fund.* The Fund's project in Bulgaria aims to improve the accountability and transparency of the local administration by institutionalizing and building the capacity of municipal ombudsmen, as well as by fostering the access of citizens of local communities.

Support for media

- *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.* The Office organized regular briefings and training workshops in several countries, including Colombia and Guatemala, for media professionals on human rights themes. In Burundi, it built close collaboration with the national media and provided continuous support to national human rights protection networks, including women leaders of grass-roots communities. In Angola, it supported two weekly radio programmes with full national coverage, addressed human rights and participated in funding a special human rights magazine intended for opinion leaders throughout the country.

- *Department of Public Information.* United Nations Radio has broadcasted numerous reports on the elections in such countries as Timor-Leste, Iraq, Haiti, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and Liberia. *The United Nations Chronicle* and *Africa Renewal* published a number of articles on governance aimed at increasing public understanding and support for the efforts of Governments to build or restore democratic rule in Africa.

- *United Nations Democracy Fund.* In Tajikistan, the Fund supports the initiative implemented by Khoma, a local association, aimed at creating a network of lawyers and media law experts to defend the interests of independent television, press and radio stations, and to analyse laws regulating media activities. With a journalists' association in Timor-Leste, it trains and equips Timorese journalists to gain experience and professionalism. In the Philippines, it strengthens the critical role of the press as a watchdog and underscores media ethics and responsibility in partnership with the Local Centre for Community Journalism and Development.

Democracy and terrorism

- *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.* Within the framework of the Global Project on "Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism" launched in 2003, the Office provides assistance to New or Restored Democracies in ratifying and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism. Approximately 5,000 national criminal justice officials have been provided with specialized substantive briefings on the legal international regime against terrorism; 35 regional and subregional counter-terrorism workshops were conducted and 7 technical assistance tools have been developed.

Democracy and gender

- *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.* In support of the new Iraqi Government, the Commission's Centre for Women carried out a workshop for parliamentarians and civil society activists in September 2005, co-sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars.
- *United Nations Democracy Fund and United Nations Development Fund for Women.* The two Funds support a programme to increase women's political empowerment and to promote legislation that protects women from sexual and gender-based violence in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- *International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.* With funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and the National Institute of Women in Mexico, the Institute launched a three-year project on "Strengthening governance with a gender perspective and women's political participation at the local level" to contribute to promoting women's rights, gender equality and women's political participation and leadership in local government planning and management.
- *United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Development Fund for Women.* The two organizations have collaborated on the iKNOW politics initiative, a new knowledge network connecting women in politics.

Building democratic leadership and management skills

- *United Nations Institute for Training and Research.* The Hiroshima Fellowship for Afghanistan, launched in November 2003, aims at building leadership and management skills and providing technical and institutional support to a core group of senior Afghan government officials, academics and practitioners.
- *United Nations Democracy Fund and United Nations Development Programme.* The UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok supports an initiative for the development of young governance leaders from the Asia-Pacific region. The project aims at providing young leaders from the Asia-Pacific region with an opportunity to strengthen and develop their capacity to lead and influence democratic governance processes.
- *World Bank.* In Liberia, the Bank helped to prepare and negotiate the Governance and Economic Management Action Plan in August 2005.
- *Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Development Programme.* The Department and the Programme carried out subregional consultations on "Capacity-building for the peaceful management of conflict in Central American and Caribbean States" in the Dominican Republic in June 2007.

Support for democratic processes through good offices

- *Department of Political Affairs/Great Lakes Region Office.* Under the overall leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great

Lakes Region Office, the Department of Political Affairs, in close consultation with other United Nations agencies, worked towards the achievement of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which includes the protocols, programmes of action and projects in the fields of peace and security, democracy and good governance.

- *Department of Political Affairs/United Nations Office in Tajikistan*. The Office was tasked to help create an enabling environment for consolidating peace, democracy and the rule of law and to liaise with the Government, political parties and other representatives of civil society in broadening national consensus and reconciliation.

- *Department of Political Affairs/United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic*. Together with the Government, political parties and civil society, the Office has the task of working towards the strengthening of democratic institutions and, to this end, takes steps needed to advance the democratic process in the Central African Republic.